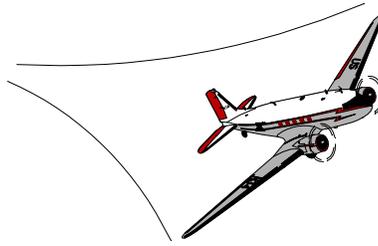


# SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION SERVICE  
800 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20591

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This is issued for informational purposes only and any recommendation for corrective action is not mandatory.

## **Introduction:**

The purpose of this Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) is to inform registered owners/operators of De Havilland DH 80A Puss Moth, DH 82A Tiger Moth and DH 83 Fox Moth aircraft of the availability of British Aerospace Technical News Sheet CT(MOTH) No. 33, Issue 1, which provides information concerning the inspection of the cockpit restraint systems used in these aircraft.

## **Background:**

British Aerospace reports that in the impact of a recent accident, the forward cockpit shoulder harness right restraint cable and rear cockpit shoulder harness restraint cable failed and one of the lap straps tore through near a stitched joint. A subsequent inspection revealed the safety harness webbing had deteriorated to approximately 50 to 75% of its original strength due to aging. The investigators also found that the safety harness in the aircraft were designed to be used in conjunction with a military type seat pack parachute and if not used in this manner, would not meet the required design load criteria.

## **Recommendation:**

The FAA is recommending, but not requiring, that owners/operators of De Havilland DH 80A, and DH 83 Moth aircraft inspect and maintain the aircraft restraint systems as detailed by British Aerospace Technical News Sheet CT(MOTH) No. 33, Issue 1, dated March 1, 1999. Special consideration should be placed on materials that may have deteriorated due to age.

Copies of Technical News Sheet CT(Moth) No. 33, Issue 1 can be obtained from British Aerospace Military Aircraft and Aerostructures, Ltd., Chadderton Site, Greengate, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1SA, England. Technical Support may be obtained from the Engineering Support Manager, Telephone (44) 161-955-8789, or fax (44) 161-955-8798.

## **For Further Information Contact:**

FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Attention: Mr. Roger P. Chudy, ACE 112, 1201 Walnut, Suite 900, Kansas City, MO 64106, telephone: (816) 426-6934; fax: (816) 426-2169; email: [roger.chudy.faa.gov](mailto:roger.chudy.faa.gov)